

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND.

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 25th Day of May 1780.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.



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OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE
C H U R C H

OF
S C O T L A N D,

Begun at *Edinburgh* the 25th Day of *May* 1780, and
concluded the 5th *June*, said year.

I.

The King's Commission to GEORGE Earl
of DALHOUSIE produced, and order-
ed to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 25, 1780.

THE General Assembly of this National Church
being convened and constituted, there was
produced to them, by the Right Honourable
GEORGE Earl of DALHOUSIE, the King's Com-
mission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the treaty of
Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the
Great

Great Seal of Scotland, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britannie, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimum quintum diem Maii instantis convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quinetiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ conventus, die statuto debito observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei, Georgii Comitæ de Dalhousie, quod ad summum munus postea mentionatum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit qualificatus: Noveritis igitur, hoc nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti nos, tenore præsentium, nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum Georgium Comitem de Dalhousie, supremum nostrum Commissionarium ad effectum postea mentionat. dando et concedendo illi plenissimam nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non presentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et locum Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in omnibus respectibus, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi muneris fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter presentes facere potuerimus. Queque omnia et singula ab antedicto Georgio Comite de Dalhousie, in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper antedictæ ecclesiæ et conventus pastoribus, et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque intra illam partem Magnæ Britannie Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, quibuscunque cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatæ, ut dictum Georgium Comitem de Dalhousie, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum revereantur, agnoscant, et dict. ipsius audientes*

audientes se præbeant, stricte mandamus et imperamus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo quinto die Maii instantis incipere, et deinceps hac subsequend. sessione dicti generalis conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat, præsentibus appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, quinto die mensis Maii, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et octogesimo, regnique nostri anno vigesimo. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis superscript.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the
General Assembly, presented to them
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

G E O R G E R.

RIGHT Reverend and well-beloved, we greet you well. The knowledge we have of your loyalty and affection for our person and government, and the many proofs we have, from time to time, received of your constant and zealous endeavours for the advancement and encouragement of virtue and piety, afford us the most pleasing hopes of the continuance of so laudable a conduct; and it is with the greatest satisfaction, that we take this opportunity of repeating to you those assurances of our royal support and authority, which you have so truly and deservedly merited, by your steady adherence to the discouragement of vice and immorality, and to the advancement of true religion, so essential to the welfare and prosperity of our people.

Convinced as we are of your prudence and firm resolution to concur in whatever may promote the happiness of our subjects, it is unnecessary for us to recommend to you to avoid every thing that may tend to disturb that harmony and tranquillity which is so essential in
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councils, solely calculated for the suppression of every species of licentiousness, irreligion, and vice ; and as we have the firmest reliance on your zeal in the support of the Christian faith, as well as on the wisdom and prudence of your councils, we are thoroughly assured, that they will be directed to such purposes as may best tend to enforce a conscientious observance of all those duties, which the true religion and laws of these kingdoms require, and on which the felicity of every individual so essentially depends.

Having already had repeated proofs of the fidelity, zeal, and attachment of our right trusty and right well-beloved cousin, George Earl of Dalhousie, we have again made choice of him to represent our Royal Person in this Assembly ; and as you have so often had experience of his affection for you, and of his constant attention to the true interest of his country, we are persuaded, that this nomination will be considered by you as a fresh mark of our favour. You may be assured, that the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, as by law established, will always meet with our support, in the full enjoyment of their rights and privileges. We are convinced, that the same wise conduct, which has so often manifested itself in your former meetings, will be exerted on the present occasion ; and that cordiality, unanimity, and brotherly love will attend all your proceedings, and be the means of securing a happy and satisfactory conclusion of this present meeting of the General Assembly. And so we bid you heartily farewell,

Given at our Court at St James's, the 5th day
of May 1780, in the twentieth year of our
reign,

By his Majesty's command,

(Signed) S T O R M O N T.

The

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the
King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's most gracious letter was received, and read, with the respect and gratitude due to so descending a mark of Royal favour.

The approbation which your Majesty is pleased to express of former Assemblies, animates us to imitate their example, and to persevere in that conduct which may best correspond to the hopes which your Majesty entertains of us; and we receive the repeated assurances of your Royal support as a most powerful encouragement to continue our endeavours towards discountenancing vice and immorality, and advancing true religion, so essential to the welfare and prosperity of your people.

We are conscious of having no other object in our councils, but to promote the happiness of the people committed to our care, by the zealous support of the Christian faith, by enforcing the observance of those duties which true religion and the laws of these kingdoms require, and by suppressing every species of licentiousness; and it shall be our care to maintain the temper which your Majesty recommends, and to avoid every thing which may tend to disturb the harmony and tranquillity which are so essential in councils, directed to the important purposes of promoting religion and virtue.

The choice which your Majesty has been pleased to make of the Earl of Dalhousie, to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly, we regard as a fresh mark of your Royal favour. The well-known loyalty of that noble Lord, his firm attachment to the Church of Scotland, and the happy experience of former Assemblies, render your Majesty's nomination most acceptable to us.

We rest, with the most entire satisfaction, in the assurances which your Majesty is pleased to give of your resolution to maintain the Church of Scotland in the full enjoyment

enjoyment of her rights and privileges ; and it shall be our study to merit the continuance of your Majesty's protection, by conducting the proceedings of this Assembly with the cordiality, unanimity, and brotherly love, so warmly recommended by your Majesty.

Your Majesty's royal bounty, for the propagation of religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, we receive with all thankfulness ; and we shall be careful to apply it to the pious purposes for which it is bestowed.

We are happy to find, from your Majesty's letter, that your Majesty is well persuaded of our loyalty and affection ; and we can assure your Majesty, that the loyalty of the people of Scotland was at no former period more entire or more warm. The present alarming crisis, formed by the combination of the enemies of our religion and liberties, whilst it unites the hearts of our countrymen in attachment to the state, and calls forth their most vigorous exertions in the public service, gives fresh ardour to our wishes and prayers for the stability and prosperity of your Majesty's government.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may long preserve your Majesty, give success to your arms, and prosper your administration ; that he may bestow his choicest blessings on your Royal Consort, the Queen, on the Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family ; that there never may be wanting one of your Royal House to sway the British sceptre ; and that, after a long and happy reign over a free people, you may receive an unfading and eternal crown of righteousness, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

HARY SPENCE, *Moderator.*

IV.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Harry Spence, minister of the Gospel at Wemyss, their moderator, all the ministers who are members of the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay, Mr James Finlayson at Sandsting, Mr Charles Wilkie at Ecclesmachan, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Dr George Barclay at Haddington, Mr John Clunie at Whitekirk, Mr Robert Bowmaker at Dunse, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Thomas Smith at Cumbertrees, Mr Robert Rutherford at Castletoun, Mr George Duncan at Lochrutton, Mr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, Mr William Boyd at Penningham, Mr James Wright at Maybole, Mr James Woodrow at Stevenston, Mr William Taylor at Paisley, Mr James Scot at Carlisle, Dr John Corrie at Glasgow, Dr Robert Finlay there, Mr Archibald Smith at Strathblane, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothsay, Mr Alexander Hoffack at Jura and Colonsay, Mr Paul Fraser at Craignish, Mr William Campbell at Kilchrenan, Mr James Bisset at Capieth, Mr James Moodie at Perth, Mr John Duncan at Alva, Mr James Campbell at Auchterarder, Mr James Dymock at Aberfoil, Mr James Thomson at Dunfermline, Dr James Gillespie, principal of the New College St Andrews, Mr James Ogilvie at Eassie, Mr James Adamson at Abernethy, Mr Daniel Bryce at Logiepert, Mr James Forsyth at Belhelvie, Mr James Gillan at Kinalos, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr David Denoon at Kileurnan, Dr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, Mr Donald Macqueen at Kilmuir, Mr Murdoch M'Iver at Lochalsh, Mr Angus Bethune at Alness, Professor George Hill, St Andrews, Mr

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Patrick M'Vean at Dull, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, ministers; Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, Esq; William Honeyman, Esq; advocate, Dean of Guild Grieve, Mr William Galloway merchant Edinburgh, Convener Craig baker Edinburgh, John Home, Esq; Honourable Charles Hope-Weir of Craigiehall, Esq; John Dickson, Esq; advocate, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; Hugh Dalrymple, Esq; younger of North Berwick, George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; of Smeaton, Mr Matthew Sandilands writer to the signet, Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Bart. Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, Mr Richard Tod merchant in Leith, Professor Jardine, Alexander Gordon of Greenlaw, Esq; Mr William Chalmers surgeon Edinburgh, Alexander Miller, Esq; advocate, Professor Dalziel Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer to the signet, Professor Dugald Stewart Edinburgh, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, Professor M'Leod Glasgow, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. Mr James Colquhoun one of the principal clerks of Session, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Major John Melvill of Cairney, Mr Solicitor-general, Mr James Loch writer to the signet, Dr James Williamson, Allan Macdougall, Esq; Mr Thomas Elder merchant Edinburgh, Mr Niel Ferguson advocate, Sir John Belches, Bart. Bailie James Gentle Canongate, Mr Andrew M'Cara merchant Edinburgh, the Procurator, Mr William Chalmers writer, Mr George Home baker Edinburgh, James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Mr Alexander Hart clerk of Justiciary, Professor Thomas Gordon, Mr John Robertson writer Edinburgh, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, Dr Gregory Grant Edinburgh, Allan M'Connochie, Esq; advocate, Mr Francis Grant preacher of the gospel, Mr Ludovick Grant, jun. writer, Bailie John Lothian merchant Edinburgh, Mr William Dunbar writer to the signet, Simon Fraser, Esq; advocate, Sir John Gordon, Mr Colquhoun Grant writer to the signet, the Right Honourable Lord M'Donald, Mr John Russel, jun. writer to the signet, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; Mr John Mosman merchant Edinburgh, John Sinclair of Freswick, Esq; Colonel Campbell of Menzie, Robert Chalmers of Larbert, Esq; Bailie John Walker merchant Edinburgh, and Mr William M'Donald writer to the signet, ruling elders; to be a committee of this Assembly for reformation

formation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the committee are empowered to chuse their Moderator and clerk, to appoint preachers and catechists to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant ; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress : And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies : Such preachers and catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the committee be duly observed by them. And the preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick ; and, in all their labours among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws : And the committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet ; which instructions the preachers and catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said committee, to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies ;
and

and to take care that presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several presbyteries to insert in their registers, the committee's appointments of their designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the presbytery, by the Moderator or clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts. The General Assembly do also empower the said committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly Isle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge,

Knowledge, and their committee of directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the synods and presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and impowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do, by these presents, nominate and appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid committee, and according to their rules. And the said committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lye on the table till another meeting; and, in the mean time, the person complained of, and the presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said committee a just account of the matter, against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the presbyteries concerned, such presbyteries shall send up to the said committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to compleat the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot compleat it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of

the Assembly as possible. And impowered the committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it ; and that the said committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly considering there are some affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Rev. Dr Hary Spence, minister of the gospel at Wemyss, their moderator ; from the presbytery of Cairnston, Mr George Low at Birsay, Mr John Falconer at Stromness, ministers, William Honeyman, Esq; advocate, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of North Isles, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay, Mr William Clouston at Cross Burness, ministers ; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr James Gordon at Fetlar, Mr James Finlayson at Sandsting, ministers, Dean of Guild Grieve, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Robert Walker, Dr Robert Henry, Mr Henry Lundy, Edinburgh, Mr John Gibson, West Church, Mr James Robertson at Ratho, Sir Hary Moncrieffe-Welwood, West Church, ministers ; Bailie William Galloway, merchant Edinburgh, Mr John Tod, merchant Edinburgh, and Mr John Caw of the Excise, ruling elders ; from the city of Edinburgh, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and Conveener James Craig ; from the University of Edinburgh, Principal Robertson ; from the church of Campvere, Mr James Yare at Campvere, minister, and John Home, Esq; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr Charles Wilkie at Ecclesmachan, Mr John Ritchie at Abercorn, Mr James Paton at Torphichen,

then, Mr James Somerville at Whitburn, ministers, the Honourable Charles Hope-Weir of Craigie-hall, Esq; and Mr Robert Cowan, merchant at Carronback, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Robert Clark; from the burgh of Queensferry, Mr James Taylor, merchant there; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Lamington, Mr Bryce Little at Covington, ministers, John Dickson of Coulter, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Peebles, Dr James Moffat at Newlands, Mr Patrick Robertson at Eddlestone, ministers, Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Alexander Stevenson of Smithfield, Esq; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Thomas M'Courtly at Pennycuik, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, ministers, Lord President, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Patrick Bannerman at Salton, Dr George Barclay at Haddington, Mr Neil Roy at Aberlady, ministers, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, Mr James Veitch, merchant there; from the burgh of North Berwick, Hew Dalrymple, Esq; younger of North Berwick; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr John Clunie at Whitekirk, Mr Alexander Davidson at Stenton, ministers, Richard Anderson of Winterfield, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunbar, George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Bowmaker at Dunfermline, Mr Robert Home at Polwart, ministers, Mr Matthew Sandilands writer to to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Churnside, Dr Walter Anderson at Churnside, Mr John Jolly at Coldingham, ministers, Sir John Stewart, Bart. ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kelso, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Dr Thomas M'Dougall at Mackerstone, ministers, the Lord Advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr John Riccalton at Hopekirk, Mr James Richardson at Oxnam, Mr William Scot at Abotrue, ministers, Achibald Dickson of Horsley-hill, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Jedburgh, the Right Honourable the Earl of Lauderdale; from the presbytery of Lauder, Mr William Gulien at Legerwood, Mr Alexander Duncan at Gordon, ministers, Mr William Dickson in Spittal, ruling elder; from

from the burgh of Lauder, Thomas Hogg, Esq; younger, of Newliston; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Dr Robert Crammond at Yarrow, Mr Robert Douglas at Galashiels, ministers, Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr Richard Tod merchant, Leith; from the presbytery of Annan, Mr Thomas Smith at Cumbertrees, Mr Andrew Jaffray at Ruthwell, ministers, Sir William Maxwell, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Walter Scott, merchant, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr Robert Rutherford at Castletown, Mr John Russel at Eskdale-muir, ministers, Gideon Rutherford of Greenpark, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr John Nimmo at Johnston, Mr William Scott at Kirkpatrick Juxta, Mr Mathew Cleghorn at Drysdale, ministers, Mr Peter Haliday in Barnlimpan, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr William Grierson at Glencairn, Mr James Wilson at Tynron, ministers, Mr Thomas Gracie at Monihive, ruling elder; from the burgh of Sanquhar, Professor George Jardine, Glasgow; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr James M'Millan at Forthorwall, Mr George Duncan at Lochrutton, Mr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, ministers, Mr Alexander Waugh student in divinity, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr Philip Morrison at Balmaghie, Mr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, Mr John M'Naught at Girthon, ministers, Alexander Gordon, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of New Galloway, Mr William Chalmers surgeon, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Wigton, Mr William Boyd at Penningham, Dr James Laing at Glasserton, ministers, Alexander Miller, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wigton, Professor Andrew Dalziel; from the burgh of Whithorn, Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer to the signet; from the presbytery of Stranraer, Mr William Donaldson at Ballantrea, Mr William Learmonth at Old Luce, ministers, Robert Cathcart of Geanoch, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ayr, Mr James Wright at Maybole, Dr William Dalrymple at Ayr, Mr Andrew Mitchell at Monkton, Mr James Young at New Cumnock, Mr Steven Young at Barr, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargenny, Esq; William Wallace of Sauchrie, Esq; ruling elders; from the

the burgh of Ayr, Professor Dugald Stewart, Edinburgh ; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr James Woodrow at Stevenston, Mr Arthur Aughterson at Kilbride, Mr John Mutrie at Kilmarnock, ministers, the Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, Esq; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Dr John Adam at Greenock, Mr William Taylor at Paisley, ministers, Mr Robert Paterfon sheriff-substitute of the shire of Renfrew, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Patrick Maxwell at New Monkland, Mr Alexander Dobie at Glasford, Mr Alexander Hutchison at Hamilton, ministers, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr James Scott at Carluke, Mr Thomas Linning at Lesmahago, ministers, the Right Honourable the Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Lanark, Mr Alexander Bell merchant in Edinburgh ; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Dr John Corse, Dr Robert Finlay, Mr Robert Balfour, Glasgow, Mr Alexander Dun at Calder, ministers, Professor John Anderson and Mr John Fergusson merchant in Glasgow ruling elders ; from the University of Glasgow, the Reverend Mr Hugh M'Leod professor of ecclesiastical history in the University of Glasgow ; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr Archibald Smith at Strathblane, Mr David M'Gibbon at Buchanan, Mr Hugh Gourlie at Balfrone, ministers, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. ruling elder ; from the burgh of Dumbarton, James Colquhoun, Esq; younger, of Luss ; from the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothsay, Mr John Melvill at Denoon, ministers, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr John Hamilton at Kilmoray, Mr Alexander Hoffack at Jura and Colonsay, Mr John M'Millan at Kilchoman, ministers, Major John Melvill of Cairney, Esq; ruling elder ; from the burgh of Campbelton, Mr Solicitor General ; from the presbytery of Inverary, Mr Paul Fraser at Craignish, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, ministers, Mr James Loch writer to the signet, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Inverary, Professor Williamson, Glasgow ; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr William Campbell at Kilchrenan, Mr Joseph M'Intyre at Glenorchy, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell of Monzie, ruling elder ;

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from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Archibald M'Arthur at Kilninian, Mr Norman M'Leod at Morvern, ministers, Allan M'Dougall of Galanish, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr James Bisset at Caputh, Mr James Hunter at Auchtergavan, Mr Patrick M'Vean at Dull, Mr Peter Stewart at Killin, ministers, Bailie Thomas Elder, merchant in Edinburgh, and Mr Niel Fergusson advocate, ruling elders ; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr James Jobson at Errol, Mr George Frazer at Moneidy, Mr Allan Stewart at Killspindie, Mr James Moodie at Perth, ministers, Sir John Belches, Bart. and Mr Richard Lake writer in Edinburgh, ruling elders ; from the burgh of Perth, Bailie John Caw merchant in Perth ; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr John Duncan at Alva, Mr William Nimmo at Bothkenner, ministers, William Muirhead, Esq; of Herbertshire, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr John Scott at Muthill, Mr James Campbell at Auchterarder, Mr Robert Mathie at Glendovan, ministers, Bailie James Gentle, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr James Dymmuck at Aberfoil, Mr William Osburn at Tillicoultie, ministers, John Campbell of Lochend, Esq; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr James Thomson at Dunfermline, Mr Alexander Dalling at Cliesh, Mr Walter M'Alpin at Culrofs, ministers, Dr John Steedman physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Dunfermline, Bailie William Hutton merchant in Dunfermline ; from the burgh of Culrofs, Mr David Ireland town-clerk of Culrofs ; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Dr Hary Spence, Mr Robert Colvill at Dyfart, Mr James Wemyess at Burntisland, ministers, James Townsend Oswald, Esq; ruling elder ; from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Mr James Fergus merchant in Kirkcaldy ; from the burgh of Kinghorn, James Balmain, Esq; Solicitor of his Majesty's Excise ; from the Burgh of Dyfart, Mr Andrew M'Cara merchant in Edinburgh ; from the presbytery of Cupar, Mr Robert Wingate at Abdie, Mr John Stark at Balmerino, Mr George Campbell at Cupar, Mr David Wilkie at Cults, ministers, William Peaston of Sutra, Esq; and Mr James Walker of Daftmiln, ruling elders ; from the presbytery of St Andrews, Dr James Gillespie principal of the New College, Mr William Vilant at Kings Barns,
Mr

Mr Alexander Brodie at Denino, Mr Archibald Bonnar at Newburn, ministers, James Durham of Largo, Esq; Professor John Cook, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Dr Andrew Duncan physician in Edinburgh; from the University of St Andrews, Professor George Hill; from the burgh of Craill, James Ayton, Esq; of Kippo; from the burgh of Anstruther Wester, Mr William Chalmers writer, Edinburgh; from the burgh of Kilrenny, Mr John Haddoway merchant in Leith; from the presbytery of Meigle, Mr Thomas Mason at Glenisla, Mr Charles Keay at Cupar Angus, Mr James Ogilvy at Essie, ministers, George Wright of Latoun, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr William Adie at Kirrymuir, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, ministers, Mr George Hume baker, ruling elder; from the burgh of Forfar, James Cunninghame of Hyndhope, Esq; from the presbytery of Dundee, Mr James Henderson at Monifieth, Mr James Adamson at Abernate, Mr John Playfair at Liff, ministers, Conveener Andrew Jobson, Dundee, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr John Aitken at St Vigeans, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, ministers, Baron Maule, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothock, Mr Alexander Hart clerk of Justiciary; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr Daniel Bryce at Logiepert, Mr Alexander Mollison at Montrose, Mr James Gillies at Menmuir, ministers, Mr John Scott advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Montrose, Captain Robert Moodie shipmaster in Leith; from the presbytery of Fordun, Mr Robert Young at Benholm, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, Mr Alexander Leslie at Fordun, ministers, Mr Thomas Scott writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Bervie, Sir William Augustus Cunninghame, Bart.; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Mr Gavin Mitchell at Kinnellar, Professor Alexander Gerard at Aberdeen, Mr James Forsyth at Belhelvie, Mr Skene Ogilvie at Skene, ministers, George Strachan Keith, Esq; and Mr Alexander Fullerton in Aberdeen, ruling elders; from the King's College, Professor Leslie; from the presbytery of Kincardine-O'Neal, Mr John Ramsay at Strachan, Mr William Shand at Lumphannan, Mr Robert Farquarson at Coldstone, ministers, Mr John Tawse writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ellon, Mr William

William Patterson at Slains, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, ministers, Professor Thomas Gordon ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Garrioch, Mr Alexander Turing at Oyne, Mr William Davidson at Inverury, Mr John Shand at Kemnay, ministers, Lord Westhall, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Deer, Mr James Johnston at Crimond, Mr Hugh Taylor at New Deer, Mr Basil Anderson at Old Deer, ministers, Mr John Taylor clerk to the signet, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Turriff, Mr Robert Balingal at Forglen, Mr William Dingwall at Fergie, ministers, Mr Alexander Forbes writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Robert Ogilvie at Ordequhill, ministers, Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr Thomas Johnston at Boharm, Mr James Ogilvie at Rothes, ministers, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Elgin, Dr James Hay at Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, ministers, Mr Allan M'Connachie advocate, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Elgin, Mr Francis Grant preacher of the gospel ; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkelly, Mr James Gillan at Kinloss, ministers, Bailie Duncan Grant merchant in Forres, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant, jun. writer in Edinburgh ; from the presbytery of Nairn, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr Alexander Grant at Calder, ministers, Bailie John Lothian merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Nairn, Mr William Dunbar writer to the signet ; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr Alexander Fraser at Inverness, ministers, Simon Fraser, Esq; advocate, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, Mr David Denoon at Kileurnan, ministers, Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr John Mathison at Kilmuir Easter, Mr John Ross at Logie Easter, ministers, Lord Ankerville, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers of Larbert, Esq; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Dr Patrick Grant

at Urray, Mr Angus Bethune at Alness, ministers, Sir John Gordon, Bart. ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleiskine, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, ministers, Mr Colquhoun Grant writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Roderick M'Leod at Brachadale, ministers, Andrew Crosbie, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, Mr Hugh Monro at Wig, ministers, the Procurator, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Uist, Mr Allan M'Queen at North Uist, Mr Edmund M'Queen at Bara, ministers, the Right Hon. the Lord M'Donald, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Donald M'Leod at Glenelg, Mr Murdoch M'Iver at Lochalsh, ministers, Norman M'Leod of M'Leod, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornock, Mr George M'Culloch at Loth, Mr Æneas M'Leod at Rogart, ministers, Mr John Russel, jun. writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dornock, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; from the presbytery of Tongue, Mr John Thomson at Durness, Mr William M'Kenzie at Tongue, ministers, Mr John Mossman merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr Alexander Smith at Olrick, Mr James Pope at Reay, ministers, and John Sinclair of Freswick, Esq; ruling elder; and the Assembly added thereto, Dr George Wishart, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the moderator, and all the members whose commissions had been rejected by the Assembly on account of informality, to be commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after-mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftner when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum

above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly ; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly ; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before synods or presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets ; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force, till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert ; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith* ; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby impowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly ; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to synods and presbyteries, upon application to them for that end : Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, be correct ; and give directions about printing the

the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and impowered to keep a correspondence with the committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein ; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned : And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same ; declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners, particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money ; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed ; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission ; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission ; and such of the members of these presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof ; and the presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same : And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions, relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred
to

to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, That when any presbytery or synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been sometimes the practice, but shall allow the same to lye over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such presbyteries or synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said Commission, to make due application to the King and Parliament for redress of the grievance of patronage, in case a favourable opportunity for so doing shall occur during the subsistence of this Commission : And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly 1736.—And the Assembly further did, and hereby do, appoint the Commission to watch over any steps which may hereafter be taken for removing or weakening our legal securities against Popery.

VI. Overture

VI.

[The General Assembly re-transmits to presbyteries the following Overtures, and recommends it to them to pay particular attention thereto.]

Overture anent the Ordination of Elders.

THAT whereas great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the Ordination of elders, it should be enacted, That no minister shall set apart any person to that sacred office, in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or such property in it as would intitle him to vote in the calling of a minister; it being the true meaning and intent of this overture to prevent elders being ordained in congregations who are in no way connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this overture.

VII.

Overture anent licensing Probationers.

THE General Assembly, taking into their serious consideration the danger that ariseth to this Church, and to the souls of people, by licensing any to preach the gospel who are not duly qualified, according to the rules laid down in the Holy Scriptures; and considering that the several acts made by former General Assemblies, lye so scattered in many separate articles, at great distances from one another, that the directions therein given are in danger of being overlooked by presbyteries: Therefore the General Assembly, collecting what appears to

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them

them most material in former acts, ordain, That the following regulations shall be strictly observed by presbyteries in all time coming.

1mo, That no presbytery admit any person to probationary trials, but such as are found to be of good report, of sufficient learning, of sound principles, of a pious, sober, grave, and prudent behaviour, and of a peaceable disposition, and well affected to the government in church and state, and of whom they have sufficient ground to conceive that they shall be useful and edifying in the church, and that careful enquiry be made thereanent; and that without respect of persons, such as are esteemed to be light and vain in their behaviour, proud, worldly minded, or unacquainted with the power of practical godliness, be kept back from that sacred work.

2do, That none be admitted to trials in order to be licensed, but such as have produced to the professor of divinity at the time of their being enrolled, either a diploma of Master of Arts, or a certificate, bearing that they have gone through a full course of philosophy at the college, and who have either given close attendance on the divinity-hall for the space of four years, from the time of their names being entered upon the roll of the presbytery as students of divinity; or, if their circumstances did not permit them to give close attendance on the hall, have continued to prosecute the study of divinity for six years, and have in that time delivered the usual number of discourses; provided also, that, at the time of their being admitted to trials, they are twenty-one years of age complete.

3tio, The General Assembly, considering the reproach that may be brought on religion in general, and particularly on this Church, by the unworthy behaviour of such as follow the study of divinity, do earnestly recommend to the presbyteries, professors of divinity, and ministers and members of this Church, to keep a watchful eye on such students, during the terms above specified. And further, that when any student comes to attend the professor of divinity in any university, he shall produce to the professor, and to the minister of the parish where he is to reside, during the time of his attendance on the profession, a testimonial from the minister of the parish
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from whence he comes ; and when he leaves the profession, he shall carry back testimonials from the minister of the parish, of his grave and suitable behaviour becoming his character ; and from the professor, testimonials certifying the same, and also his regular attendance on the diets of the profession, and the time he has attended. And when any professor of divinity shall think fit to recommend a student, in order to probationary trials, his testimonials shall certify his proficiency in his studies, and his moral character.

4^{to}, The General Assembly do appoint and ordain, That no presbytery admit any student to probationary trials, except such as have resided within their bounds for the space of six months, or do produce to them sufficient testimonials from the presbyteries in whose bounds they have lived, or for the most part resided, expressing, that it is the desire of these presbyteries that these students should be entered upon trials. And such students as come from abroad, shall produce satisfying testimonials from the professors under whom they studied ; and the time of their being abroad shall be accounted a part of the six years ; but none of these students shall be entered upon trials for the space of half a year after they come to Scotland.

5^{to}, When any student is proposed to a presbytery, in order to be taken on trials, the proposal shall lye on the table till the next ordinary meeting, before they give judgment therein, that diligent enquiry may be made, and information had concerning the said student's qualifications and behaviour ; and the presbytery shall be alone when the proposal is made and judged on ; and the General Assembly enjoins all students to take all opportunities of cultivating an acquaintance with the ministers of the presbytery where they reside, and where they are to pass trials.

6^{to}, When the presbytery, after serious enquiry and mature deliberation, shall agree to take the proposed candidate on trials, they shall examine him strictly and privately, in order to enable them to judge whether he possesses the piety, knowledge, abilities, and other qualifications necessary for a preacher of the gospel.

7^{mo}, The General Assembly appoints the same method

to

to be observed, and trials to be taken in all the above particulars, before any presbytery recommend a student to pass trials in another presbytery.

8^{vo}, The General Assembly do also appoint and ordain, That the terms above specified being expired, and testimonials produced, and previous trials taken in manner above directed, the presbytery, before they prescribe any part of public trials, shall write letters to all the presbyteries within the bounds of the synod, acquainting them with their design, two months at least before sitting of the synod; and at the said next meeting of the synod, they shall also acquaint the synod thereof, and obtain their special judgment and advice in that particular; and, that the members of the said presbytery and synod may be ripely advised thereanent, the General Assembly appoints the said letters to be duly and carefully transmitted to the several presbyteries, and that intimation thereof be publicly made at the first diet of the synod, to lye on the table till the second or some subsequent diet, and then particular enquiry be made whether any person have any thing to object against the student's being entered on trials for preaching the gospel. Provided always, That in any part of this Church, when synods meet but once a-year, a student may be proposed to the synod half-a-year sooner than would have been competent if the synod had met twice a-year.

9^{no}, The General Assembly recommends to presbyteries, that before any student is entered on trials, the engagements required by act 10th Assembly 1711, of such as are to be licensed, be read to them; and that the presbytery take promise of them, that they will subscribe to, and particularly observe the same, in case the presbytery see cause to licence them; and that this promise be recorded in their books.

10^{mo}, The General Assembly appoints the public probationary trials of students, who are to be licensed probationers, to be the following, *viz.* 1. The catechetic trials to be renewed in presence of the presbytery, and that previously to all the other parts of public trials. 2. A homily in English on a Scripture text. 3. An exegesis in Latin on a controverted head of Divinity, and sustaining a thesis and dispute thereon. 4. An exercise
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and addition. 5. A lecture on a large portion of Scripture. 6. A popular sermon on a particular text of Scripture. 7. A trial on chronology and Church history, especially the history of our own Church. *Lastly*, A trial on their knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages.

11^{mo}, The General Assembly, judging it fit that the same method shall be followed in all presbyteries as to questions put to, and engagements taken of probationers when licensed; and that the said probationers should not only give sufficient proof of their piety, literature, and other good qualifications for the sacred ministry, but also come under the strictest engagements to adhere to and maintain the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government of this Church: Do therefore enact and appoint, That the questions appointed by act 10th 1711, be put to all such as pass trials; and likewise that they shall subscribe the *Formula* set down in the said act, before they be licensed to preach the gospel. And the General Assembly strictly prohibits the licensing any person whatsoever, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*; and discharge any presbytery to make use of any other questions or *Formula*.

12^{mo}, When any presbytery, who, with the synod's allowance, has entered, or who is about to enter a student on trials, shall receive a letter from any presbytery, shewing their dissatisfaction with that student, and giving relevant grounds for the same, which they offer to verify to the presbytery at their next meeting, the said student shall not be licensed until the matter be tried. And the General Assembly appoints presbyteries, who shall receive such letters anent students from any other presbytery, to write a return with the first post after their meeting, acquainting them of their next diet.

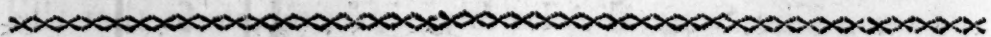
13th, That the acts concerning Simony be read before licensing any probationer.

14th, For the better observation of this act, it is particularly recommended to the professors of divinity, to communicate the contents thereof to their students in a public meeting annually, at such time, in the month of January, as to them seems most convenient. And all

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presbyteries

presbyteries and synods are peremptorily appointed to observe the same in all its parts: And it is strictly enjoined, that visitors of presbytery-books make strict enquiry how the several presbyteries do observe the same.



VII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 24th day of May, in the year 1781.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, }
JOHN DRYSDALE, } *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

TABLE

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General Assembly, held in the year
1780.

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INDEX or ABRIDGEMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1780, which are not printed at full length.

May 25. 1780. Sess. 1st.

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Dr James Gillespie, one of the ministers of St Andrews, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the ministers and elders convened in the Assembly-house; and, after prayer by the said Dr James Gillespie, Dr Hary Spence, minister of the gospel at Wemyss, was chosen Moderator, and, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The King's Commission to the Right Honourable George Earl of Dalhousie to represent his Majesty's Royal person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious letter to the Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioners speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling delivered in to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A letter from Mr James Edmonstone, sub-clerk to the Assembly, and agent for the Church, given in and read; setting forth his bad state of health, and desiring the Assembly would be pleased to appoint Mr George Cairncross to officiate for him in these offices during this Assembly, unanimously agreed to by the Assembly, and Mr Cairncross appointed accordingly.

A committee named for answering the King's most gracious letter.

A committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from diets

I N D E X 1780.

diets thereof, naming ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner; receiving in lists of the probationers in the several presbyteries in order to their being recorded.

Committee for overtures named.

Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1780. Sess. 2d.

Sederunt.

A diet spent in prayer.

Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of this Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1780. Sess. 3d.

Sederunt.

The roll of causes transmitted by the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

The report of the Committee for overtures called for, the same was given in and read over.

An objection to the commission from the burgh of Dumfries heard; the Assembly sustained the objection, and expunged the member's name from the roll.

The consideration of an objection to the attestation of the elder, in the commission from the presbytery of Inverary delayed.

The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious letter to this Assembly brought in and approved, and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

A committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the commission of the late General Assembly.

A committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the committee appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

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A committee named to audite the Procurator and Agent's accounts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The committee for overtures impowered to receive in from the several members any instructions given to them by their respective synods or presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly; and receive in and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing, or suppressing thereof.

The committee for bills appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock in their usual place.

Resolved to consider on Monday, the petition from the presbytery of Fordoun, and Mr Lawson's cause.

A committee appointed to consider the reference from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, and to report their opinion to the Assembly.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1780. *Sess. 4th.*

Sederunt.

A new commission produced.

Synod-books called for.

A committee named to revise the Synod-book of Glasgow and Ayr.

None of the other Synod-books being brought up to this Assembly, resolved, that the reasons thereof be enquired into.

Report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

The report of the committee for overtures produced and read over.

The objection to Mr Loch's commission delayed till tomorrow, at desire of his council.

An appeal of the presbytery of Fordoun against a sentence of the Synod of Angus and Mearns, refusing them liberty to take Mr John Shank, student of divinity in their bounds, on trials, in order to his being licensed, heard; the sentence of the Synod found void and null, on account of their having excluded from judging

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judging the presbytery of Fordoun, who were constituent members of the Synod; and the cause remitted to the presbytery of Fordoun, and they enjoined not to finish the trial of Mr Shank till they have taken the judgment of the Synod. Against which several members dissented.

Resolved to consider to-morrow the cause of Mr Lawson, and the cause anent the settlement of Biggar.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock, in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 30. 1780. *Sess. 5th.*

Sederunt.

A committee named to revise the Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale.

An appeal of Mr Hugh Campbell, minister at Kilmartin, and Mr Alexander M'Tavish, one of the ministers of Inveraray, against a sentence of the presbytery of Inveraray, refusing to attest Mr James Loch as their ruling elder, heard; the sentence of the presbytery reversed, and the commission sustained.

Resolved to consider to-morrow the overtures from the Synods of Fife, and of Perth and Stirling, anent plurality of benefices.

Resolved to consider on Thursday, the order from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, anent the expenditure of public money; and the original grant for the L. 500 ordered to be then laid before the House.

The instruction from the presbytery of Glasgow, anent the records of Assembly, referred to the committee on public accounts.

An appeal of Mr James Lawson, student in divinity, against the presbytery of Auchterarder, for refusing to give judgment on certain parts of his trials; of consent remitted to a committee to meet with the parties with a view to an amicable compromise, and to report the result of their conference on Friday.

An appeal of Lady Clementina Fleming, spouse to Charles Lord Elphinstone, and the said Charles Lord Elphinstone, and of Mr Robert Pearson preacher of the gospel, their presentee to the kirk of Biggar, against a sentence of the presbytery of Biggar, referring the
affair

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affair of the settlement *simpliciter* to the Assembly, heard. The cause taken up on the footing of the reference only. The concurrence to the presentee sustained, and the presbytery appointed to proceed towards the settlement of the presentee with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church; and the Commission in November impowered to judge in any question that may be regularly brought before them concerning said settlement, by complaint, reference, or appeal. Against which judgment several members dissented.

The committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow, at ten o'clock, in their usual place.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1780. *Sess. 6th.*

Sederunt.

The committee in Glasgow on the fund for Galic students continued, and addition thereto.

The report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

The committee on the petition of Mr Mutter, minister of Kirkcudbright, appointed to meet at six o'clock this evening, in the Exchange Coffee-house.

The committee on public accounts, &c. appointed to meet at seven o'clock this evening.

The petition of Mr William Milligan, minister at Kirkden, read, and referred to a committee.

The Assembly, agreeable to the resolution of yesterday, proceeded to take under their consideration the overtures from the Synod of Fife, and Synod of Perth and Stirling, anent ministers holding plurality of benefices; which overtures, with the report of the committee for overtures thereupon, were read: The report of the committee agreed to, that no member of the inferior court can be heard upon the overture who is not a member of Assembly; and the Assembly dismissed the said overtures.

A reference from the presbytery of Dunfermline read; and the Assembly found no cause before them, in respect that the parties were not cited.

Agreed to take in the complaint of Mr James Burn, after the overture from Merse and Teviotdale; and after these

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these the cause of Fenwick ; and thereafter the cause of Gorbals.

Reasons of dissent from the sentence on the appeal from the Synod of Angus and Mearns given in and openly read, and ordered to lie in *retentis*.

The committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

June 1. 1780. Sess. 7th.

Sederunt.

The report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

Upon a motion, resolved to consider the cause anent the chapel of Greenock, immediately after that of the minister of Gorbals.

The procurator and agent, stationer and printer's accounts produced, and ordered to lie upon the table.

The report of the committee on Mr Mutter's petition given in and read, and the opinion of the committee adopted.

The report of the committee appointed by last Assembly on the psalmody given in and read : The committee renewed, and recommendation given to them to continue their diligence, to ripen the same against next Assembly, and, if possible, to have a fair copy of the collection ready for the review of said Assembly.

Agreeable to the resolution of Tuesday last, the Assembly proceeded to consider the overture from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, anent the expenditure of the public money : The overture, with the report of the committee for overtures respecting the same, and the original grant for L. 500 for defraying the public charges of the church, &c. and the report of the Barons of Exchequer to the Lord High Treasurer thereanent, were all read ; and the Assembly dismissed the said overture.

Upon a motion, enacted, that the procurator should henceforth hold his office *ad vitam aut culpam*, in the same manner as the clerks and agent for the Church, with all its rights and privileges, expressed in terms of his first appointment.

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Agreeable

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Agreeable to the resolution of yesterday, the Assembly proceeded to consider the petition and complaint of Mr James Burn, minister at Forgan, against a resolution of the presbytery of St Andrews to proceed to settle Professor George Hill minister of St Andrews: The cause was fully heard, and the complaint dismissed without debate.

Adjournment.

June 2. 1780. Sess. 8th.

Sederunt.

The report of the committee on Mr Lawfon's case given in and read. Of content, remitted to the presbytery of Auchterarder to proceed to the remainder of Mr Lawfon's trials, to finish the same, and pronounce their final judgment between and the first Wednesday of May next.

The case of Mr William Milligan recommitted to the consideration of the committee.

Additions to the committee on the psalmody.

A reference from the synod of Glasgow and Ayr, anent the settlement of Mr Archibald Reid, presented by George Earl of Glasgow and his tutors to the church of Fenwick, heard; the concurrence to the presentee sustained, and the presbytery of Irvine appointed to proceed towards the settlement of the presentee with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the church; and the Commission in November empowered to judge in any question that may be regularly brought before them concerning said settlement, by complaint, reference, or appeal. Against which judgment several members dissented.

The committee for overtures appointed to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

June 3. 1780. Sess. 9th.

Sederunt.

Reasons of dissent from the sentence respecting the settlement of the parish of Biggar, given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie in *retentis*.

The report of the committee for overtures called for; the same was given in and read over.

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The overture respecting the ordination of elders, with certain corrections, and the overture respecting the licencing of probationers, retransmitted; and the clerks appointed to write to presbyteries, requiring them to take these overtures under their consideration at their first meeting, after receiving said Letter. *Vide printed Acts.*

The report of the trustees for the widows fund produced, and ordered to lye on the table for the perusal of the members.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson advocate, procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging Mr Robertson of the sum of L. 500 Sterling, and appointing that he debit himself, in his next account, with the sum of L. 21 : 11 : 9⁶/₁₂ Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving the account of James Edmonstone, agent for the Church, and appointing that he should have credit in his next account for the sum of L. 14 : 19 : 1¹/₂ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

An account due to the executors of the deceased Robert Fleming, late printer to the Church, ordered to be paid.

An account due to James Dickson, present printer to the Church, ordered to be paid.

An account due to John Balfour and Co. stationers to the Church, ordered to be paid.

Act abolishing the office of stationer to the Church, and authorising the principal clerk of Assembly to supply those gentlemen who have a title to stationary articles, and to give in his account annually to the Assembly: Also prohibiting the article of psalm-books for the use of the Assembly for the future.

The report of the committee named to consider the applications for shares of the public money given in and read; which being considered by the Assembly, they found, that, in respect of the resolution of last Assembly, and the present state of the fund, these new applications cannot be complied with at present.

The Assembly appointed all the new applications, with the procurator's opinions thereon, to be kept by their clerks, in order to be considered by some future Assembly in their order.

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The report of the committee for naming the members of the Commission, and preparing instructions for them, given in and approved of.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty Register given in and read ; the conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Glasgow and Ayr attested.

The Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale attested.

The General Assembly ordered all the Synods, whose books had not been sent up to this Assembly, to send them up to the next General Assembly.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the overture anent new erections called for, produced, and read. The committee continued, and an addition thereto.

The committee on the Enzie fund continued, with the same powers.

The committee on the window and house-tax continued, with the same powers.

Sundry appeals against several sentences of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, respecting the cause at the instance of John Isat, and others, feuers and inhabitants of the village of Gorbals of Glasgow, against Mr William Anderson, minister of the Gorbals, heard ; the three first sentences of the Synod reversed, and the fourth sentence of the Synod affirmed ; and the libel against Mr Anderson found both incompetent and irrelevant ; and the whole process dismissed as vexatious and scandalous.

Resolved to consider the cause anent the chapel of Greenock on Monday.

Adjournment.

June. 5. 1780. Sess. ult.

Sederunt.

The committee in Edinburgh on the collections for behoof of students having the Irish language renewed ; Sir Hary Moncrieffe added thereto, and appointed conveyener.

List of probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

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The report of the trustees for managing the fund for a provision to minister's widows, &c. containing a state of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register, kept for that purpose.

An appeal of the presbytery of Paisley, against a sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Air, anent the election of a minister to the chapel of Greenock, heard; the sentence of the Synod affirmed, and the presbytery of Paisley enjoined, in any future vacancy and election of a preacher or minister to said chapel, to adhere strictly to their own resolution of the 3d August 1774.

On account of the indisposition of Mr Edmonstone, sub-clerk to the Assembly, and agent for the Church, upon a motion, the Assembly unanimously appointed Mr Cairncross to officiate as sub-clerk to the Assembly, and agent for the Church, till next General Assembly.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not determined by them, and causes remitted by former Assemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commission, with power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

A petition for James Allan, messenger in Perth, referred to the Commission.

Protestations admitted.

A committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's sederunt were read; the minutes of former sederunts being read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the General Assembly, and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with prayer and singing a psalm.

F I N I S.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

*T*HOSE who want their *setts* of the Acts of Assembly made complete, will please apply to the Printer for the Church.

A few copies still remain complete, from the 1690 to the present time, and a re-publication of the Acts, previous to that period, in one volume 8vo; so that presbyteries or sessions who have no Acts, may be supplied, if they give their orders soon.

Also, in one volume 12mo, Dundas's Abridgment of the Acts of Assembly.

Likewise, in one volume 8vo, Pardovan's Collections of the Acts of Parliament and Assembly, relating to the Discipline, Government, &c. of the Church of Scotland.

